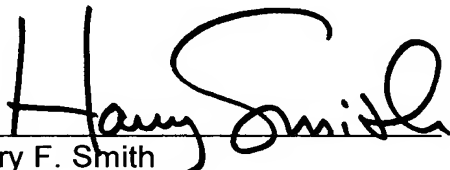


REMARKS

This amendment is based on the amended claims in the amended sheets found in the Annex to the International Preliminary Examination Report. The amendment removes the multiple dependencies and reference designators from the claims. The amendment was not made for reasons related to patentability, and the full range of equivalents for all of the elements of the amended claims, as well as for all of the other claims, should remain intact.

A favorable consideration that results in the allowance of all of the pending claims is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted:

  
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